

Annual Meeting Attendance Confirmation

This is to certify that the below person participated at the 24th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) in Barcelona, Spain, 5-8 September 2018, and presented the below contribution.

Member's Details

EAA ID: 60157

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Contribution - Paper:

Doing Archaeology and working with amazonian communities: the case of the earthen structures known as geoglyphs

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Signature



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in archaeological funding, they are forced to find new ways of carrying out their dissertations. It is important to discuss these and other difficulties that PhD students face and to try to find solutions.

The paper explores the different stages of a doctoral research project from the perspective of the PhD student and examines the limitations and difficulties facing investigations of Latin American archaeological sites carried out from Europe. Ways of combining theory and practice when the geographical distance is an impediment are discussed. The merits of bringing together the educational tradition of European archaeology and the more anthropological approaches that characterise American archaeology are stressed. New technologies and digitisation have made intercontinental research easier; however, the scarcity of doctoral fellowships for students who are not members of a research project creates financial problems and limits the opportunities to carry out research abroad, attend international congresses, or publish in high impact journals. In sum, the paper discusses ways of dealing with these problems and offer solutions and tips for European students hoping to carry out research into Latin American archaeology. The results may be of interest to institutions intent on increasing their participation in international research projects.

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DOING ARCHAEOLOGY AND WORKING WITH AMAZONIAN COMMUNITIES: THE CASE OF THE EARTHEN STRUCTURES KNOWN AS GEOGLYPHS

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Presentation Format: Oral

The project of study of earthen structures known as geoglyphs led by the universities of Valencia (Spain) and the Federal University of Acre (Rio Branco, Brazil) has different objectives but the main one, beyond, the study of the structures is the implementation of plans that allow the necessary protection of these monuments having an impact on local communities.

The project pretends to move away from interventions that could be labeled as 'neocolonialist' and contribute to the development of archaeological activity in the state of Acre. For this, it has the collaboration of the Acrean delegation of the Instituto de Patrimônio Histórico Artístico (IPHAN), la fundación Elías Mansur de Cultura e Comunicação and institutions of great social relevance as the Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (ICMBIO) and the Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (EMBRAPA).

The study of the geoglyphs, paradoxically, has been possible due to the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest with absolute contempt of the local communities, both indigenous and rubber workers (seringueiros). The sustainable development of these communities implies a management of the extractive reserves, mainly of the Chico Mendes one, and to that sustainable development it intends to contribute the integral study of the earthen structures known as geoglyphs. The extraordinary dimension of the phenomenon, more than 500 structures in the state of Acre (more than 150000 km² of mainly forested surface) makes its conservation very complicated if local communities are not involved.

From the archaeological point of view, the necessary excavations have to weigh the sustainability of the project and plan activities of protection.

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UNDERSTANDING CHANGE DURING THE UPPER PALAEOLITHIC AND MESOLITHIC

Theme: The archaeology of material culture, bodies and landscapes

Organisers: Grimm, Sonja (Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology - ZBSA; SFB 1266 "Scales of Transformation") - Reynolds, Natasha (UMR 5199 PACEA, Université de Bordeaux)

Format: Regular session

The Middle/Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic/Neolithic transitions in Europe have long been major foci of research attention. But what about the changes that occurred between these two important transformations? In the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic record, we see clear evidence for changes through time in social organisation, technologies, hunting strategies, mobility, and cultural practices.

Describing and interpreting these changes is of major interest, despite the challenges. More precise and robust chronologies and the ever-increasing volume of archaeological data have strengthened our understanding of the modern human hunter-gatherer past. Environmental and climatic changes as well as the appearance and spread of new technologies are often seen as key to understanding cultural change. Beyond this, our discussions of mechanisms and meaning behind changes seen in the archaeological record seem quite limited, and there is scope for improving our interpretations and theoretical frameworks.

Questions we wish to address are:

- What kind of methodological and theoretical problems do we face when trying to compare periods and how do we overcome them?
- How do we conceptualise units of comparison (periods, cultures) and to what degree do these heuristics determine our research outcomes?
- What lessons does current research teach us about our understanding of change in the hunter-gatherer past?

In this session, we seek to provoke an epistemological debate using Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic case studies. Therefore, papers that